

May 1, 2007

Washington - Floor Statement for H. Res. 252 A Resolution Recognizing the 45th Anniversary of John Glenn's Achievement as the First U.S. Astronaut to Orbit the Earth

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- Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
- Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to seek support for House Resolution 252, recognizing the 45th anniversary of John Herschel Glenn, Jr.'s historic achievement in becoming the first United States astronaut to orbit the Earth.
 - This resolution recognizes John Glenn's distinguished career:
 - as a military officer in the United States Marine Corps, during which he served in combat in the South Pacific and the Korean conflict and received many honors for his military service;
 - as a test pilot on Navy and Marine Corps jet fighters and attack aircraft; and especially
 - as an astronaut on the first manned orbital mission of the United States.
- Mr. Speaker, on February 20, 1962 John Glenn piloted the Mercury-Atlas 6 *Friendship 7* spacecraft on the first U.S. manned orbital space mission, completing 3 orbits of the Earth, and landing some 5 hours later, 800 miles southeast of the Kennedy Space Center near Grand Turk Island.
 - With that pioneering flight, John Glenn joined fellow Americans Alan Shepard and Virgil Grissom in realizing the dream of space exploration and engaging the minds and imaginations of his and future generations in the vast potential of space exploration.
 - This resolution recognizes that John Glenn, having retired from the space program, continued his public service as a distinguished member of the Senate for 24 years and through his work at the John Glenn Institute at the Ohio State University, which fosters public involvement in the policy-making process.
 - In 1998, John Glenn returned to space after 36 years as a member of the crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, helping researchers study how weightlessness affects the body of an older person.
 - Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Science and Technology fully endorsed this resolution honoring John Glenn's historic space flight at its mark-up meeting on March 28th, 2007.
 - Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.Res.252 to-
 - honor the 45th anniversary of John Herschel Glenn, Jr.'s landmark mission piloting the first manned orbital mission of the United States, and
 - recognize the profound importance of his achievement as a catalyst to space exploration and scientific advancement in the United States.

- Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.